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Regional Growth Partnership  
BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH-PERFORMANCE ECONOMY

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PUCO

November 6, 2014

Chairman Thomas W. Johnson  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Case No. 14-1693-EL-RDR and Case No. 14-1694-EL-AAM

Dear Chairman Johnson:

As President & CEO of the Regional Growth Partnership, the lead economic development organization serving Northwest Ohio, I see the impact a successful business has on the community and the residents it serves. Good-paying jobs and support of a community tax base has a rippling effect that reaches many. However, I also see the devastating effect a business can have when it can no longer operate as intended. That is why I strongly encourage you and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to support AEP Ohio's Power Purchase Agreement proposal.

The plants listed in this proposal were originally built to serve Ohio load and for decades have provided low-cost power to Ohio residents. It is appropriate for AEP Ohio to re-dedicate these plants to provide ongoing economic benefits to Ohio customers for their remaining life.

This is even more important in light of several utilities in Ohio announcing the retirement of significant generation by the middle of next year. When combined with current market conditions for electricity, we will see viable, environmentally compliant plants, which could run for years to come, be forced to shut down for economic reasons. This is unacceptable and action needs to be taken now to secure our energy future in Ohio.

I encourage you to approve AEP Ohio's Power Purchase Agreement proposal. It is not a bailout as others would suggest, but a plan that protects Ohio's economy and shields AEP Ohio's customers from market volatility. Please docket this letter in support of AEP Ohio's plan and as part of the record in this proceeding (Case No. 14-1693-EL-RDR and Case No. 14-1694-EL-AAM).

Sincerely,

Dean Monske  
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable John Kasich  
PUCO Commissioners

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